Alabama

Parks and Play Grounds – 1935

Negroes Seek Park

FLORENCE, Ala., June 27.—The TVA negro girls' club here is raising funds and turning them over to the park commission for developing a tract of city-owned land into a park for negro people, Judge Orlan B. Hill, Jr., chairman, said today.

Memphis Press

Florence, Ala., Herald
July 5, 1935

NEGROES RAISE FUNDS FOR DEVELOPING PARK

More than $60 has been turned over to William Milliken, member of the Florence park commission, by the Florence girls' and women's negro TVA clubs to be expended by the commission in developing the tract of land on West Irvine avenue set aside for a negro park.

Other proceeds raised by the clubs were held over to finance a big barbecue and picnic to be given at the proposed park grounds July Fourth, the proceeds of which will be added to the fund.

Parks and Play Grounds - 1935

Florida

St. Augustine, Fla., Record
August 11, 1935

The Playground Idea

Pensacola's commissioners are turning their attention to playground facilities for the colored population, and in this connection the Pensacola News says: "City and county authorities should recognize the necessity for a colored bathing beach, baseball park and other facilities. These things are necessary if the colored folks are to be happy and contented. Any program being considered for improvement in the city's recreational facilities should include items which will help to fill the colored population's desires."

It is true that most of the towns of Florida have been derelict in considering the needs of the colored people along this line. To be sure, the playground idea is comparatively new. It used to be considered that children did not have to be encouraged to play or given special places. They had the streets, which were not encumbered with much traffic. They had vacant lots, and other places in which to roam. Now the streets are too dangerous for the youngsters. Many of the lots where the children of other days played are home sites, or are so overgrown with weeds and underbrush that they cannot be used for playgrounds. We have done well for the white adults and children of the community, with Davenport Park, San Marco Park, Anastasia Park, Lewis Park, and Westside Park. It has taken us a long time to get around to doing anything for the colored people. The city is now filling a large area of marshland, at the foot of Duero Street, which will make an ideal park for the negro population, but it will take a year or more to complete the fill, put on a top soil, and make the park usable. In the meantime, the city commissioners have decided to go ahead with the plan to make temporary use of a tract in the southern section of the city, which will not be used for noisy games, but is to be created primarily as a rest area for the colored people. What is now an unsightly tract and dubbed a nuisance by many in that neighborhood will be underbrushed. Ornamental shrubbery will be retained. Benches and simple playground equipment for small children will be placed. Police regulations and supervision will insure order at all times.

It is believed that no matter what the private feelings of some of the people of that vicinity may be, they will in common justice and fairness admit that the colored people should have some provision made for them. In a year or more, the negro population will have a spacious recreational park of their own. In the meantime, the city will have cleaned up and made attractive a large tract which is now an eyesore. A park for orderly, law-abiding colored people certainly will be an improvement.

St. Augustine, Fla., Record
August 1, 1935

Colored Park Matter Comes Before City

Residents of Southern Area Present to Offer Protests

DELAY RESULTS

City Manager Asks Help in Making Recommendations on Site

A resolution offered yesterday in the city commission meeting by Mayor Walter B. Fraser establishing a temporary recreational park for colored people on the old Penson property in the southern section of the city was defeated temporarily, when residents in that vicinity, with Mrs. Temperance Stabel of No. 186 Oneida Street as spokesman, made vigorous protest. Mrs. Stabel said she thought the matter had been finally settled after a policeman had made the rounds and secured the written sentiment of property-holders, the majority of whom were against establishing such a park in that neighborhood. Commissioner E. G. Kuhn made a motion that the proposition to establish a colored park at this particular point be denied once and for all. Commissioner V. J. Mickler suggested that action be deferred. Commissioner Charles Leyvraz said that a colored park in order to do the most good for the colored people themselves should be in the vicinity of the school and colored welfare center on Central Avenue. Commissioner E. J. Wishard, Sr. said he thought the price asked for the Penson tract too much, and the request for park there could be denied on that score.

All the commissioners, from the sentiments expressed, feel that the colored people of the community should be given a park, and opportunity for recreation, and the citizens from the southern section of the city were apaprently of this opinion too, but felt that the Penson tract should not be chosen.

City Manager Eugene Masters asked that a committee from the commission be appointed to survey the possible sites, and assist him in making recommendations in the matter. The commissioners decided to delay the park matter for for the present, with this idea in view.

St. Augustine, Fla., Record
August 8, 1935

Colored Park To Be Created In South End

Vote for Use of Penson Property Carries 3 to 2

Resolution to establish a temporary park or recreational center for colored people on the former Penson property, now owned by Mrs. M. D. Hardin, in the southern section of the city, was again introduced into the city commission meeting yesterday by Mayor Walter B. Fraser and seconded by Commissioner E. J. Wishard, Sr. It passed with a vote of three yeas and two nays. Those voting for it were Commissioners Fraser, Wishard and Leyvraz. Those voting against it were Commissioners Mickler and Kuhn.

The only citizen from the area affected who was present to protest was Mrs. Temperance Stabel of No. 186 Oneida Street, who spoke against it last week. She made an impassioned appeal yesterday, and said if other property-owners in her section had known the matter was to come up again they would have been present.

Commissioners discussed the matter fully. Mayor Fraser said that although there might be some objection now, he believed the opposition would die out when it was found out that the arrangement is temporary; also that this is not to be used as a football or baseball field. It is to be a park where people may sit, with probably some simple playground equipment for smaller children. He added that it would be supervised and under police regulations at all times. He pointed out that there are many palms and shrubs in the area and that it could be made a beauty spot, one in which the colored people could take pride, and therefore be inspired to improve their own properties. He pointed out the large number of colored people resident in that section, and added that the colored people, many of whom are taxpayers, are due consideration.

Commissioner Wishard said he had spent many hours with colored real estate agents trying to find a more suitable place for this temporary park for colored people, but that this seemed impossible.

Commissioners Mickler and Kuhn seemed to be under the impression that they could find such a place, where there would be no objections offered, and Mayor Fraser said that if this were possible, they could submit their recommendations to the commissioners, whereupon if desired, the action of yesterday would be rescinded.

The city is to pay to Mrs. M. D. Hardin, owner of the property which is to be used for park purposes, the sum of $200 annually. This is the amount represented by the taxes on the property. Mrs. Hardin offered to let the lease money apply on the purchase price, should the city desire to purchase the property.

The city is now filling an area of marshland at the foot of Duero Street, where it is planned to some day establish the permanent park and recreational ground for colored people.

Inspection Made

An inspection of the proposed location for this park was made this morning by a representative of the Record. It shows the tract to be at present in an unsightly condition; also that certain lots and other properties in that locality owned by white people are not being cared for as they should be. Much of the negro property in that locality shows care, and an endeavor to keep things in good condition.

Inspection also reveals that protesting residents on Onieda Street are at some distance from the proposed park area. Blanco Street comes in between.

A review of conditions in that section of the city also showed that residents of that vicinity have had two streets paved for them within the past year or so, without one penny being charged up to the property owners. Oneida Street and Cerro Street have been paved with CWA or FERA labor and gas tax monies. This service to the people in that section is mentioned because the charge was made in a recent city commission meeting by a resident of Oneida Street that nothing has been done for the people in that vicinity. Property owners in other sections of the city have paid good money on street paving assessments, which was given to these property owners without charge.

Parks and Play Grounds – 1935

Georgia

NEGRO CHILDREN GET PLAYGROUND

Telegraph

Thousands of Race From Over Georgia Attend Dedication Ceremonies Here

5-18-35

Thousands of Negroes from all over Georgia came to Macon yesterday for impressive dedication exercises marking the opening of the new Forbes-Johnson playground for Negro children on the campus of Central City college.

In chartered busses, trucks and commandeered automobiles, wagons, buggies and afoot, the 2,500 present for the official ceremony at noon grew to nearly 7,000 persons by mid-afternoon as the visitors participated in a diversified program.

The playground was formally presented to the city by Rev. H. F. Taylor, pastor of the Unionville Baptist church speaking in behalf of Georgia Baptist Negroes; but Rev. J. H. Gadsen, president of the college, emphasized that it was for the use of all regardless of denomination.

The college head welcomed city and county officials and scores of white friends. Mayor Herbert Smart received the playground for the city and Troy M. Raines pledged the support of county commissioners in development of the park site.

Mrs. Beggs Starts Move

Introduced to the crowd were Aldermen E. R. Layfield and DeWitt McCrary. Arthur Lewis, Macon attorney who has assisted in many developments at the Negro school, introduced Mrs. George Beggs, city playground director who started the movement for the Negro playground more than a year ago.

In the dedication address, Rev. J. M. Nabrit, Atlanta, president of the Georgia Negro Baptist convention, executive secretary of the national Baptist convention and one of the first presidents of the Macon college, emphasized character-building aims of play.

Lunch Is Served

Basket lunches were spread on park tables by the visitors who had come from Atlanta, Cordele, Abbeville, Jeffersonville, Albany, Moultrie, Hawkinsville, Madison, Washington and many other Georgia cities. Baseball and diamond ball games, use of swings and other equipment were enjoyed during the afternoon.

Bibb county sheriff's deputies and other white visitors reported the huge crowd was "the most orderly" they had ever seen "with not one single instance of individual or collective misbehavior." They said this was unusual and commendable in any group of this great size.

The park is named in honor of Rev. Raleigh Forbes and Rev. J. R. Johnson, both being early presidents of Central City college.

Parks and Play Grounds - 1935

Indiana

ALD. JOURDAIN PUSHES FIELD HOUSE PROJECT

U. S. CONSIDERS PLAN

After two years of fighting to get a $100,000 fieldhouse and recreation building erected in Evanston's West Side section, Alderman Edwin Jourdain, fifth ward leader, this week received word that a request from the City of Evanston for a $100,000 federal appropriation for a recreation center was being pushed in Washington. The allotment for Alderman Jourdain's recreation center project was requested by the City of Evanston along with requests for other local projects.

In his campaign for the recreation center, the young Fifth ward leader met opposition not only from outsiders who were against spending that amount of money in that section, but also from members of his own race. It was contended in some quarters that a local Y.M.C.A. branch was providing the needed facilities for community work.

Provides Elaborate Home

Architects' drawing submitted to the Evanston City council by the Race alderman provided for the most elaborate building of its sort ever planned for this section. A full-size gymnasium and basketball floor, which could be used also as an auditorium and lecture hall, occupied part of the first floor. Offices, a health center, and a reading room, with branch library facilities completed the first floor. At the end of the large hall was a fully equipped stage. with a double set of dressing rooms.

Want Reading Rooms

A large balcony overlooked the main floor gymnasium. The second floor contained reading rooms also, club rooms, a sewing and hobby room, a dining room, complete kitchen and facilities for cooking and serving club dinners. Locker rooms and shower rooms, rooms for billiards, bowling, and other indoor recreation were included in the plans.

In addition to providing permanent employment for a caretaker, an athletic director, and office personnel, it is expected that the fieldhouse project will also provide jobs for many during the period of construction.

Plan For West Side

The West side area, for which the new project will offer recreation facilities, was described by Alderman Jourdain, in his initial plea before the City council, as 'Evanston's Forgotten Land." While an elaborate fieldhouse had been erected at one end of the city, in the Foster Field area, where most of the Race children live, no community center building had been provided. It was in this area that statistics indicated the most need for added recreational facilities, if boy problems were to be met and solved.

DOUGLASS COURSE GETS SEND OFF

Golf for 1935 was inaugurated at Douglas park when a number of prominent city officials, including the mayor, were present when the initial tee off of the season was made. Douglas course to Indianapolis.

The presence of John W. Kern, mayor, gave the opening at Douglas more than just an official opening. No formal speech was made.

Those in the upper group included: Left to right: Dr. Theodore Cable, member of the City Council; Mayor John W. Kern, Mrs. Ella Abel, national women's champion, 1934; Hugh W. Middlesworth, Director of Recreation; Harry Schopp, Supervisor of Golf; L. Ert Slack, ex-Mayor, and Lee A. Johnson, Sports Editor of The Indianapolis Recorder.

Below: Henry Fleming, Superintendent of Mail, Auto License Department at the State House, and prominent politician in Indiana. Fleming is one of the rated golfers and former city champion.

DOUGLASS PARK HONORED BY THE PRESENCE OF JOHN W. KERN AT FORMAL OPENING OF GOLF LINKS

Course Undergoing Renovation As Season Gets Under Way; Patronage Increase Expected

Mayor John W. Kern was a conspicuous guest of honor at Douglas park links Saturday afternoon as the golf course was officially opened along with all other municipal courses to the Indianapolis golfing colony.

The foursome that was selected to drive off the first ball was Hugh W. Middleworth, Director of Recreation; Attorney Ert Slack former Mayor of Indianapolis; Dr. Theodore Cable, member of the City Council, and Mrs. Ella Abel 1934 national women's champion The players teed off at 2:00 p. m as a brisk wind swept across the beautiful recently manicured course whose fairways shone like a velvet carpet dotted with red flags here and there.

Immediately following the official start a number of others grouped themselves in foursomes and followed the official party around the renovated course while still many other persons who were present stood in the background or formed a gallery.

Among the many persons who were in the park at the formal opening was Harry Schopp, city golf supervisor, who discussed informally the many changes proposed and under way during an interview at the golf links. The veranda around the clubhouse is under constructio nas well a sa new tee off and many greens.

With an all around view of the links, the clubhouse will find a greater patronage from the many visitors who lounge around while their friends take their rounds of the nine hole course.

Before the season will have wound up for 1935, golfers among our group are expected to exceed the number of players over last year by hundreds. The game is more popular, the Douglas Golf club has become more active and many persons have announced themselves as beginners in the sport.

Parks and Play Grounds - 1935

Kentucky

New Municipal Community Center In Charles Young Park Dedicated; Presented by Mayor Thompson

E. T. Attwell, New York, director of the negro bureau of the National Recreational Association, made the dedicatory address Sunday afternoon in the opening exercises for the new municipal negro community center at Charles Young park on East Third street.

In his address he recited experiences in his line of work over the country in devoloping programs for making the best use for one's leisure time, and dedicated the new building to the spiritual, social and civic betterment of the community to be served.

The program opened promptly with a 15 minute play of five scenes covering the activities of the recreation committee in contacting the mayor, commissioners, city manager, architects and contractors in the various efforts leading up to the actual beginning and carrying out of the plan and building.

The program included Scripture reading by the Rev. James W. Gibson. The invocation was by the Rev. W. Judson King, with music by the Community Chorus. Prof. J. B. Caulder presented Mrs. M. A. Wendell who introduced Mayor Charles R. Thompson.

Mayor Thompson represented the city in the presentation of the new building. R. H. Hogan, in accepting, declared that "we accept with a full knowledge of all that this occasion involves or means."

Dr. W. H. Ballard, the next speaker, covered local history related to the occasion, naming similar provious provisions for the group made by former administrations, covering above thirty years. He introduced city officials present, Commissioners J. Curry Tunis, Steve Featherson, Mayor Thompson and City Manager Paul Morton. Mr. Morton made an address in which he blamed corrupt politics for the depression and most other civic ills. Racial intolerance, religious hate, greed and selfishness are at the bottom of both local and national governmental failure, he declared. He gave the Ten Commandments as to the simplest interpretation of the law of guidance.

Miss Anna H. Pherigo was introduced and made a brief talk. Charles Fithian, city clerk, was presented. The audience of fully 700 sang "America." Benediction was said by the Rev. Judson King.

Parks and Play Grounds - 1935

Louisianna

New Orleans, La., Times-Picayune
June 17, 1935

MEMORIAL PARKS FOR WHITE, NEGRO CHILDREN OPENED

Dedication Programs Held at Richard Berthelot Lemann Playgrounds

Where ships once plied and weeds and rubble later had their day, several thousand children Sunday indulged in an orgy of swinging and seesawing as their elders dedicated the Richard Berthelot Lemann Playground, lying along Lafitte avenue and bisected by Claiborne avenue.

The long, green expanse, 100 feet wide and about 1200 feet long, once the site of the Old Basin canal, underwent a sudden transformation when gates were thrown open to the white and negro sections at 4 p. m.

Children of all ages took immediate possession of the equipment donated by Dr. and Mrs. I. I. Lemann and their son, Paul, as a memorial to their son and brother, Richard, who was killed in an automobile accident two years ago at the age of 21.

Children Take Command

In the white section, lying on the river side of Claiborne avenue, comparative decorum prevailed—at least while the grown folks were around. The lake side of the playground, however, speedily presented a crowd scene. The officials and the speechmakers could talk all they pleased about how much they appreciated the gift; the negro children of the Fourth Ward showed it by getting down immediately to the business of playing. Cues 50 feet long were drawn up behind the slides, and anybody who fell out of a swing lost his or her seat permanently. The only articles not in use were the basketball rings and the concrete wading pool—which was empty.

Half of the negro playground, or the far lake end, was not put in use since not all the necessary equipmen has been installed.

Two successive dedicatory programs were held, one on the whit side and one on the negro. At both tributes flowed toward the Leman family, the commission council which gave the ground, the playgrounds commission, City Enginee Patrick H. Quinlan and Moise H Goldstein, architect, who designe the parks, and the FERA, whic furnished the labor for the projec Monte M. Lemann, who presented th playground on behalf of his brothe Dr. Lemann, who is ill, and his fam ily, asserted that the equipme played but a part in the successf consummation of the memorial. H and other speakers referred to t propriety and fitness of the mem rial.

Mayor Walmsley Speaks

Mayor T. Semmes Walmsley a Frank B. Grevemberg, engineer the Orleans parish district of t FERA, predicted the playgrou would be only a starter for a cha of similar breathing and playi spaces throughout the city, in bo white and negro sections. Mrs. Oli A. Stallings, president of the pla grounds commission, also spoke bri ly, accepting the parks as a respo sibility of the commission. La rence diBenedetto, playgrounds ma ager, was master of ceremonies the white exercises. Mrs. Lemann mained quietly at the rear of t rostrums, out of sight, during t ceremonies.

The negro program was prepa under the auspices of the Lema Playground Association, organized number of weeks ago, and was tended by approximately 4000 p sons. While this crowd was jamm about the speakers' platform, ano er 1000 negro children continued th play.

Flag Is Presented

The negro program included a selections by the FERA Band, Louisiana Bards, and the Thomy fon Schoolboys' Band; presentat of Mr. diBenedetto by James L is, president of the Lemann Pl ground Association; introduction Antoine M. Trudeau, master of c monies; invocation, Rev. Hugh C ahan, dean of men, Xavier uni sity; acceptance, playground asso tion, Margaret Burt; address, Dr. seph A. Hardin, president of the gro Federation of Civic Leag presentation of American flag behalf of Fourth Ward Civic Lea negro, Alma P. Riley; accepta James Lewis; raising of flag, Scouts.

Resolutions of appreciation, posed by the Federation of C Leagues, were adopted on motio Dr. Hardin. The latter asserted "regardless of all that has bee may be said, the 120,000 negroe New Orleans sincerely appreciate efforts on their behalf of M T. Semmes Walmsley and the mission council."

Parks and Play Grounds—1935

New York.

Frederick Douglass Memorial Park, A 53-Acre Cemetery In Staten Island To Be Controlled By Negroes

With the openng this week of the Frederick Douglass Memorial Park, an ultra modern cemetery, a body blow will be dealt the high cost of dying in Greater New York City and vicinity. This high cost has been, particularly harsh on the Negro; for aside from the steadily increasing prices of graves in this section, more and more cemeteries are either closing their gates to his dead altogether, or segregating them in the least attractive sections of the grounds.

It is the purpose of Frederick Douglass Memorial Park, similarly to that of the famous Valhalla Burial Park, which adjoins it, "o lessen sorsow by creating around death an atmosphere of beauty and inspiration."

Macaddam roads, underground drains, shrubs, lawns, every section with a water system, nothing has been spared to make the Frederick Douglass a fifty-three acre tribute to the dead free from any watery graves. One hundred thousand dollars has already been sent in the development of this modern cemetery. Moreover, every grave includes perpetual care in its original purchase price.

The property, located outside of St. George, Staten Island is approximately one hour by auto from Harlem and is a shorter distance from Brooklyn and New Jersey. It is reached either by ferries or the Holland Tunnell and Bayonne Bridge.

Frederak A. Bunn, builder of Valhalla Burial Park, is president of the Frederick Douglass Memorial Park and with him are associated a Board of Public-spirited men who sensed the growing need of just such an artistic development. Other officers and members are as follows: Kenneth Duncan, of Duncan Brothers, undertakers, New York City, vice-president; Rodney Dade, of Rodney Dade and Brothers, undertakers, New York City, secretary and treasurer; James Beckett, undertaker of Newark, N. J.;

W. C. Brown, pastor Fleet Street A. M. E. Zion Church, Brooklyn, N. Y.; William P. Hayes, pastor of Newark, N. J.; William M. Kelley of New York City; A. Clayton Powell sr., pastor Emeritus of Abyssinian Baptist Church, New York City; Clarence C. Wright, undertaker of Batlimore, Md.

Four other members are to be elected to make a board of twelve.

Wilfred Ball, formerly secretary of W. A. Tooks, New York and Philadelphia manufacturer of funeral supplies, is general manager of the sales corporation.

Offices of the Frederick Douglass Memorial Park, Inc., are located at 210 West 125th street, over the Woolworth Store.

First burials in Frederick Douglass Memorial Park took place on Monday, June 10th, through arrangements made by A. J. Hylton and Claudius P. Sterrett, both undertakers and both located at 111 West 132nd street. The names of the deceased are David Ezra Martin, whose interment was arranged by Underaker Hylton, and David Green, formerly of 121 West 134th street, whose interment was arranged by Undertaker Sterrett.

Parks and Play Grounds - 1935

North Carolina.

Greensboro, N. C., News
July 11, 1935

Plans About Completed For Institute Here For Negro Recreational Leaders

Plans for the institute for negro recreational leaders, to be held here at Bennett college July 15-20, are now practically complete, it was stated yesterday by Daniel R. Neal, city recreation director.

The institute is one of five being given throughout the south this summer under the auspices of the National Recreation association, and is for all negro recreation leaders in both North Carolina and South Carolina. The other institutes are being held at Nashville, Tenn., Birmingham, Ala., New Orleans, La., and Richmond, Va.

The fact that Greensboro has been selected as a place for one of the institutes is of much significance, Mr. Neal stated, and present indications are that between 100 and 150 persons will be in attendance, with good delegations from cities in this state as well as many sections of South Carolina. A. H. Peeler, director of the negro division of the city recreation commission, is looking after the arrangements for the institute.

The purpose of the sessions is to provide information and instruction to workers responsible for the organization and conduct of community programs of recreation and informal education to serve children, youth and adults in their free time.

This is accomplished through lectures, discussions, demonstration and practice and an exchange of expenditure in planning, organizing and conducting community recreation projects.

The staff will be composed of members of the field and teaching staff of the National Recreation association and of professional recreation and educational leaders locally. Of the national staff Ernest T. Attwell will lead the program on theory, organization and administration of recreation; Charles F. Wells, drama activities; Miss Ethel Bowers, social recreation and women's and girls' activities; and George L. Johnson, community music activities.

Greensboro, N. C., News
July 1, 1935

PLANS FOR INSTITUTE EVOKE MUCH INTEREST

Negro Recreational Workers of Carolinas to Meet At Bennett College Shortly.

RECEIVE APPLICATIONS

Encouraging interest is being shown in the institute for negro recreational workers for North and South Carolina which is to be held at Bennett college July 15-20, it was stated yesterday by Daniel R. Neal, city recreational director.

Applications for unusually large delegations have been received from Winston-Salem, Rocky Mount, High Point and Asheville, with a large number of representatives enrolled from the smaller communities. Other cities in the two states will also be represented.

So far, approximately 100 workers have enrolled for the five days of the institute and many more are expected, as applications will be received throughout the coming week. Those desiring information concerning the institute are requested to write to or get in personal touch with the Greensboro recreation commission.

Each negro school in the city and county will have one leader in attendance at the institute, the representatives to be selected with the cooperation of Thomas R. Foust, superintendent of the county schools, and Guy B. Phillips, superintendent of the city schools.

A. H. Peeler, director of the negro division of the recreation commission, is handling the arrangements for the institute, which will be conducted by outstanding leaders of the National Recreation association.

The institute here is one of six regional sessions to be held in the south this summer under the auspices of the National Recreation association in co-operation with local organizations.

Greensboro, N. C., News
July 21, 1935

NEGRO RECREATIONAL INSTITUTE A SUCCESS

Practically All Phases of Recreational Work Studied Here During Week.

Brought to a close yesterday after six days of extensive programs, the institute for negro recreational leaders held at Bennett college the past week was considered much of a success and of high value in the interest of future recreational work in negro communities.

Practically all phases of recreation were taken up during the institute, including outdoor and indoor activities with specific instructions in organization and administrative work, drama, music, social events and other fields. Wherever possible actual demonstrations were given.

The institute, which opened last Monday morning, was conducted under the auspices of the National Recreation association and was one of five to be held throughout the south this summer. Among those leading the work were Charles F. Wells, Miss Ethel Bowers, E. T. Atwell and George L. Johnson, all of the national association staff, and local recreation leaders.

There was a good attendance throughout the week, with many sections of North Carolina and South Carolina represented. Local arrangements were carried out by A. H. Peeler, director of the negro division of the local recreation commission.

DAYTON, O.
NEWS

JUL 28 1935

Negro League Plans Outing

Under the auspices of the Montgomery County Negro League members of that organization and their guests will hold an outing Aug. 10 on the grounds of the former children's home, S. Summit st.

A program has been arranged for the afternoon, including two three-round boxing contests, and a battle royal. Two quartets will be heard in a series of numbers. Various games will be staged. At night a cabaret and floor show will be offered.

The committee consists of George Larkins, general chairman; James Robinson, Lucius Gleaton, Forest Murray, Carl Lacey, Alex Morrison, Brownie McDowell, Herschel Guy, Arthur Cook, James Horner and John Griffin.

[illegible], N. C., Record
[illegible] 27, 1935

City Appropriates More Funds For Recreational Development of Negroes

City council met in special session Tuesday afternoon, having cancelled the regular meeting for the week previous, and a vast amount of business came up for consideration. The regular meeting for next Tuesday will find considerable routine matters cleared, paving the way for extended discussion of traffic and parking problems.

The council voted an appropriation of $1,200 from the contingency fund to be used in the purchase of additional materials for the negro community house in Nocho park, to be erected by the WPA. It was desired to enlarge the structure to make it available for use throughout the year as a gymnasium and the WPA allocation for materials was exhausted so far as this project was concerned, though there was ample money to pay labor costs. It was the consensus that while the structures were being built the city could ill afford not to provide an adequate building when the outlay would be so small. Approximately $12,000 is being put into the structure through the WPA and about $25,000 in the swimming pool to be built adjacent.

Will Have Heating Plant.

In view of the city's contribution to purchase materials for the enlarged building, the Greensboro Recreation commission agreed to pare its expenses sufficiently to meet the cost of installing a heating system. The enlarged structure will have a basketball court and a gym so that indoor games can be played throughout the year.

Council voted a monthly appropriation of not exceeding $40 a month, including a $12.50 appropriation already made, for the state employment offices, district and local, notice to move from the basement of the new federal building having been given. Waldo Porter, manager, D. E. Hudgins and Jake Oettinger, of the employment committee of the chamber of commerce, appeared to present the matter. Under the new plan the negro division of the employment service will be in the basement of the old federal building, while offices will be leased for the district offices and the while employment division. With gradual cessation of the relief activities, there would be increasing work for the employment office, especially in view of the fact that Greensboro is district headquarters. The suggestion was advanced that with the curtailment of activities, the ERA would not need all of the five story building now occupied and the rental of which is jointly paid by city and county. It was stated, however, it was desired to keep the two organizations entirely divorced as to quarters. The county will be asked to increase its monthly appropriation for the current expenses of the employment office, state and federal agencies paying all salaries.

Blind Quarters.

Councilman T. J. Hill, of the committee on quarters for the blind, reported it had been decided to provide the two-story building on East Sycamore street, immediately in the rear of the old market house structure, as quarters for the blind, this giving ample room for their broom factory display room and for other activities under one roof. The necessary changes were authorized, after due notice has been given the present tenant.

There were a number of reassessment resolutions, further discussion of parking regulations, and a number of routine matters presented. The council approved the swinging of two banners by the Boy scouts and one by the Elks lodge across the streets.

Raleigh, N. C. Times
December 3, 1935

RALEIGH NEGROES HAVE EARNED THEIR SEPARATE PUBLIC PARK

AN initial grant of $67,000 will today begin to be used in construction of a park for Raleigh negroes. The greater part of the money comes from W. P. A., the city contributing slightly more than $3,000. The park, which will have the usual recreational facilities, is to be 26 acres in extent and located in a section convenient to the colored population.

Conceding the wisdom of this W. P. A. spending, there could not be a project to promise more than this opportunity offered to negroes of a congested section who have all too few chances for diversion and recreation of a wholesome character. When completed, the park will be one of the rare institutions in the South dedicated to a need that has been long recognized but hard to supply. It is to be hoped that it will pay in full the dividends to be expected in better order and increased self-respect and more hope among an element of the population more or less neglected in the past by force of economic circumstances.

Without meaning irony, it may be as well pointed out here that Raleigh has and for years has had a negro park—not a park set aside for negroes, but one to whose facilities the negroes might have laid claim had they been sufficiently foolish. For Pullen Park is technically and, we think, legally a park for negroes as well as for whites. The land on which it is situate was deeded by the late Stanhope Pullen to the people of Raleigh—and the negroes are certainly people of Raleigh, a large per cent of them. Since Pullen Park has all these years been run as a park for whites, it is poetic justice that negroes should have a park of their own.

It is almost certain that Mr. Pullen intended his park for the use of the white race, but it was not so nominated in the bond. Happily Raleigh's negro population is on the whole as well-behaved and industrious as will be found in any city in the South. We have, in fact, a pattern bi-racial set-up, free from race antagonisms, without the record of a riot. By every test of peace and decency in the observance of the law Raleigh negroes rank along with Raleigh white men. If we had known a different class of negroes, they would have taken advantage of the lapse of caution in Mr. Pullen's grant. They would have insisted on equal privileges in the park. They might very well have instituted a suit in court to enjoin the city from appropriating money for park purposes in which they were not entitled to share.

Raleigh negroes did none of these things to destroy the purpose and intent of Pullen Park.

It is a pleasure to be assured that, after so long a time, they will have a park of their own.

Parks and Play Grounds- 1935

North Carolina

Asheville, N. C., Times
February 12, 1935

PLAN FOR NEGRO PARK FAVORED BY REALTORS

Board Goes On Record Approving Proposal Presented By Threlkeld.

The Asheville Real Estate board today was on record as favoring a plan for proposed establishment of a negro park and improved residential district at the end of Depot street. P. L. Threlkeld, of the public works department of the city, presented the plan at a meeting of the board yesterday.

Mr. Threlkeld drafted the plan for the city. The project is one of several public works projects proposed for Asheville. It was described today as "a sort of slum clearance proposition." The government would tear down existing dwellings and build new ones. They would be rented to those living in them. The project involves 12 acres of dwellings.

The approval of property-owners, necessary to the success of the venture, has been secured, it was said. Mr. Threlkeld said today that he expected to send his plan to government officials at Washington this week.

The Home Modernization and Building exposition to be held in the Tyler building February 27 through March 2 was heartily endorsed by the real estate men, who met in special session. The board decided to maintain two booths at the exposition. At the meeting, J. C. Dillard was appointed chairman of a committee on booths. Today, Gray Gorham, president, named Mrs. Lenore Gaskins, W. B. Cathey and J. T. Bledsoe as other members of the committee.

Mr. Gorham presided over the meeting.

The real estate board—like many other organizations—will take a large part in the exposition, to be sponsored by this newspaper and The Asheville Citizen in co-operation with the Asheville Better Housing program.

Raleigh, N. C. Observer
February 28, 1935

Public Park Proposed For Negroes of City

To Ask State for Old Negro Blind School Site; Will Seek Federal Aid

A public park for Negroes of Raleigh is proposed in a bill which City Attorney J. M. Broughton has prepared for introduction in the General Assembly at the request of Ed M. Barton, Commissioner of Public Works.

The measure, drawn yesterday for early presentation to the Legislature, would authorize the State School for the Blind to convey to the City of Raleigh a tract of 23 acres of land within the corporate limits and formerly utilized by the State School for the Negro Deaf, Dumb and Blind.

If the land is granted for park purposes—a condition specified in the bill—efforts will be made to obtain Federal funds to make a first-class park for Negroes, with a swimming pool and other recreational facilities. The project is included in the city's proposals now before the State Planning Board.

Pullen Park underwent extensive renovations that cost about $100,000 in ERA funds. Commissioner Barton estimates the Negro park can be established for half that amount.

The requested land fronts partially on East Lenoir and South Haywood streets, and is adjacent to Watson Park. A majority of Negro citizens of Raleigh reside in that section, which is in close proximity to public schools for Negroes.

A provision in the bill stipulates that ownership of the property shall revert to the State when it ceases to be used as a Negro park.

The Negro institution was moved to new quarters on the Garner Road several years ago, and its property in Raleigh has not been used since.

In the meantime, however, prominent Negroes of the city have been pressing for a public park for their race.

"It long has been felt by public-spirited citizens of Raleigh that such a park should be provided for Negroes of the city," said Mr. Barton. "They do not at the present have any adequate park facilities, and are in need of them badly.

"Citizens of the community who are interested in this proposal are invited to make known their views to the Senator and Representatives of Wake County in the General Assembly."

IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED FOR POPULAR RESORT

Easily Accessible To Points In N. Carolina, Virginia

4-13-35

WINTON, N. C.—Plans for expansion and extensive improvements to Chowan each near here were disclosed last week by J. E. Reid, owner and operator of the popular resort. Already regarded as one of the most ideal recreation and resort centers anywhere in the United States for Negroes, the newer and larger beach, when completed, will afford a summer refuge with facilities second to none.

The resort will have its formal opening on Memorial Day, May 30, according to present plans of Mr. Reid. Located on picturesque Chowan River, three miles west of mile north of Highway 48, Chowan Beach has been the mecca for thousands of vacation tourists for the past eleven years. The site is State highway No. 30, and one easily acessible to all points in eastern North Carolina and Tidewater Virginia especially.

Hard surfaced roads lead directly to the resort from several directions. The motorist from Norfolk can take either of two routes: from Suffolk to Sunbury to Winton, or from Franklin, Va., to Murfreesboro, N. C., to Winton. Where but a few short years ago was nothing but wilderness, an ideal recreation spot has been created by Mr. Reid. There are fully 500 feet of beach space alone, and plans are on foot to provide many more.

Elegantly-appointed Cottages

Gently sloping verdant hills, affording an unobstructed view of historic Chowan River, invite the vacationist to lie down and dream with which the spot is blessed under the numerous shade trees. Located here and there on these hillsides are twelve elegently-appointed cottages for the accomodation of one or more couples. In each of these, believe it or not, there is hot and cold running water, electric lights, and shower baths.

Where such conveniences would ordinarily be regarded as luxuries in many resorts of this kind, they are taken merely as a matter of course by frequenters of Chowan Beach because its owner has installed his own power plant and water supply.

In addition, for drinking purposes there is a natural spring affording a constant supply of pure, sparkling water. It should be mentioned that Chowan Beach is located in the center of a tract estimbated to contain more than 400 acres, all owned by Mr. Reid, thus affording ample opportunity for additional expansion.

For persons annoyed with mosquitos, Chowan Beach is nothing less than a haven of rest. There is an absolute absence of the pesky insects, and the summer nights at the beach are so cool it is necessary to sleep under blankets. Only once in the past eight years, has it been warm enough to discard the use of heavier bed clothing at the resort, Mr. Reid says.

Other Equipment

In addition to the cottages other equipment at the resort includes a merry-go-round, centrally-located dance pavilion, first class restaurant and dining room, refreshment stand, picnic shed, boat-house, and pier. There are also several boats for the use of those followers of Isaac Walton, and others who like to row for the physical benefits involved.

Indeed, the whole resort can best be described as being cool, quiet, spot is ideal for church, society, private or public picnics, and is easily accessible to all points in Eastern North Carolina and Tidewater Virginia. Chowan Beach offers the motorist an opportunity to spend the weekend or Sunday during the hot summer months where he can have the maximum amount of comfort, recreation, and enjoyment at the minimum of expense.

Mr. Reid has revealed plans to add, by the time the resort opens for the season, tennis and croquet courts, and a horse-shoe pitching area for the benefit of his patrons so inclined. A newer, larger picnic shed is also among the improvements planned. The picturesque scenery with which Chowan Beach is surrounded reminds one more of a cool, mountain retreat than a beach resort.

Near Historic School

Next to bathing facilities, fishing is probably the next best sport indulged in by patrons of the amusement center. A 36-pound carp was the prize snatch from the waters of the Chowan River by one devotee of the sport. It was said that the fish put up such a battle it was impossible to land him by ordinary means, and he finally had to be dragged upon the beach and killed.

Assisting Mr. Reid and acting as hostess throughout the summer months is his wife who acts as hostess. Added to its other advantages, Chowan Beach is located near historic Waters Training School in the midst of a community of culture and refinement embodying the very best in hospitality and friendliness.

In all, it may be said that the resort is surrounded by a quiet, homelike atmosphere calculated to furnish rest and relaxation from the everyday cares of ordinary existence

Raleigh, N. C. Observer
April 20, 1935

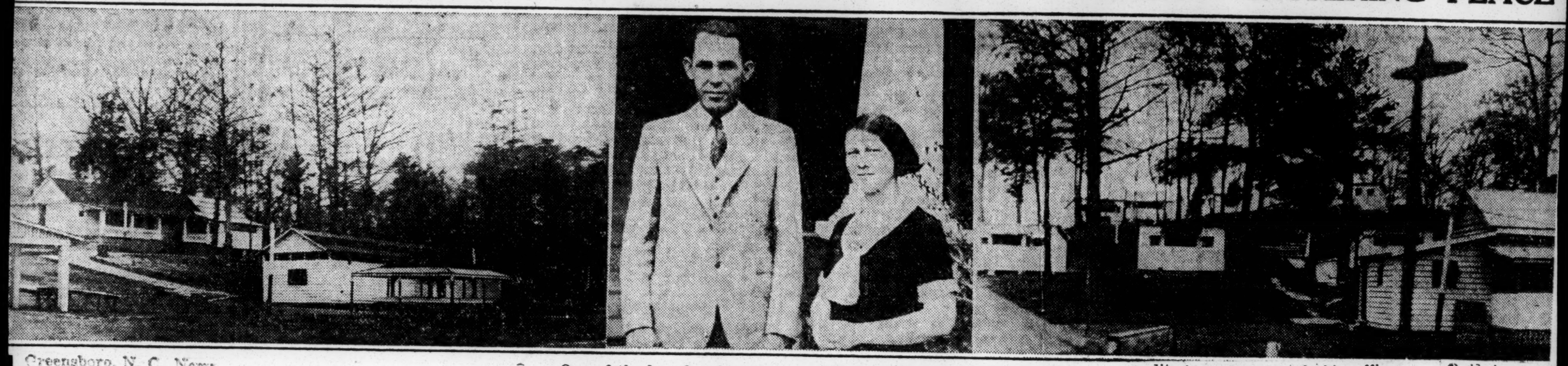
Negroes' Park

The Senate Committee on Conservation and Development yesterday approved the subcommittee substitute for Senator Weathers' bill to provide for the establishment of a park for Negroes on the old Negro blind school campus.

The substitute authorizes the State to rent the property to Raleigh for 25 years, at $100 a year, provided it is used as a park. The original plan was for the State to give the land.

Senator Weathers' plan is for the city to finance improvement of the property, which would include the construction of a swimming pool and other amusement facilities, through Federal funds.

CAMERA VIEWS OF CHOWAN BEACH, POPULAR NORTH CAROLINA WATERING PLACE



One of the best beach resorts for Negroes anywhere in the United States is the way Chowan Beach, near Winton, N. C., is described. In the above photo, from left to right, is shown a view of the restaurant bath house and picnic shed looking from the beach front; Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Reid, operators of the popular resort, and a few of the individual cottages, all of which are equipped with hot and cold running water, and electric lights.

Greensboro, N. C., News
April 4, 1935

NEGRO RECREATIONAL FACILITIES REQUESTED

Two Community Houses Are Cited As Important Needs; One In Nocho Park.

A request for further consideration regarding recreational facilities for the negroes of the city was presented to the city council at its meeting Tuesday afternoon by the advisory committee on negro recreation, a division of the city recreation commission. Action on the matter was deferred.

Among the most important needs set forth was a community house in Nocho park, serving the north and east sides of the city, and including a gymnasium, dressing rooms showers, clubrooms, reception parlor and office space; and a similar building in some location for the south and west sides of the city.

Appearing for the advisory committee were Rev. R. T. Weatherby, Dr. F. D. Bluford, Dr. D. D. Jones, Prof. W. L. Jones, Dr. G. C. Simkins, Prof. A. H. Peeler and Prof. J. A. Tarpley.

Raleigh, N. C. Observer
April 28, 1935

Parks In Raleigh

There will be general approval of the announcement of the city commissioners that they have no intention of leasing the improved Pullen Park, upon which the Federal government has spent around $90,000, to any individual for operation for profit. The commissioners should go further, however, and provide the machinery for a real park development plan in Raleigh. As the improvements are being completed at Pullen Park the need for an adequate park for Raleigh's large Negro population becomes more than ever apparent. Such a park would not merely serve Negroes but the whole community. Adequate recreation grounds for the white and colored children of the city would be the best defense the city could provide against the growth of juvenile delinquency and crime.

Today, when there is opportunity to secure funds for such valuable public projects from Federal relief funds, Raleigh should take advantage of the opportunity. But money alone will not make a park system such as a capital city like Raleigh should have. Money should be sought, but the commissioners also should seek the aid and advice of those citizens best able to help in the direction of a park plan. A park commission for Raleigh, composed of such trained men as are members of the staff of State College and such citizens as appreciate the civic value of beauty and playgrounds, should be established in order to give assurance that the parks we have and such parks as we may be able in the future to create will in every way best serve the beauty and welfare of the city.

Raleigh, N. C. Observer
April 27, 1935

NEGRO PARK SITE HERE IS ASSURED

House Passes Bill to Increase Registrars' Pay and Bookkeeping Measure

Assurance of a site for a proposed park for Negroes in Raleigh was given yesterday when the House of Representatives passed Senator Carroll Weathers' bill to allow the State to lease to the city property at the site of the old Negro Blind School.

Passage of a bill to provide additional compensation of Wake County election registrars and of a measure to require the County commissioners to install a new bookkeeping system in the auditor's office also occupied the Wake delegation in the House yesterday.

Raleigh's motive in wanting the Blind School property was questioned carefully by Representatives W. R. Clegg of Moore, W. E. Fenner of Nash and H. J. Hatcher of Burke but the Wake County members satisfied all their queries.

"Just 24 acres of gully-washed land," was Representative S. E. Douglass' description of the intended site. The Council of State is authorized by the bill to lease the property to the city for 25 years at $100 a year. Improvement must be made within a year. The property is valued at $1,500.

A bill introduced yesterday by Representative Douglass, C. E. Mitchell and E. M. Thompson would allow registrars in Wake County to receive three cents for each name which they register on days other than those on which they are required to be at the polling places.

Described by Representative Douglass as an "emergency measure," the bill was passed by the House and sent to the Senate.

One of the Wake delegation's bills recently increased registrars' pay to $4 a day, an amount which they receive for each Saturday they stay at the polling places. No compensation was allowed for registrations taken between Saturdays, as in the former law.

The three-cent rate for names will not apply to registrations made for the past city primary but, if the bill is passed by the Senate, will apply to registrations before the city election, May 6. Registrars would be required by the bill to show in ink the date of each registration.

Passage of the bill would mean considerable compensation for registrars for the next county-wide election, for which a new registration has been provided by an act of the current Legislature. A new registration also was ordered for Raleigh and has taken place.

The county bookkeeping bill was introduced in the House Thursday by the three Wake members, placed on the calendar and passed yesterday. It would require the county commissioners by June 1 to replace the old accounting system in the auditor's and court clerk's offices with new methods.

HIGH POINT, N. C.
ENTERPRISE

Parks + Play grounds
N C
JUN 11 1935

GRATIFYING AND CHALLENGING

It is gratifying to note that efforts to provide the city's Negro population with a park of its own are being pushed actively and that selection of a site may be an early development. Perhaps the project can be gotten into shape for some use during the present season, the fuller development being work looking certainly to completion before a year hence.

A municipal recreation park for the colored citizenry is a pressing community need — one in which the white population should be as interested as the colored. Such a park might well become a monument to relations and a tangible expression of an interest in the social welfare of a people whose accomplishment even with limited advantages has been an inspiration to all peoples.

There are natural difficulties in the site selection because of the physical division of the Negro community, but the usefulness of such a park should not longer be sacrificed. The park is a project behind which the community may well unite fully and whole-heartedly.

Parks and Play Grounds-1935 North Carolina

Asheville, N. C. Times
April 24, 1935

FINISH PLANS FOR NEGROES' PLAY CENTER

Plans for a negro recreation center on the site of the old county jail, to be erected at a cost of approximately $75,000 for materials and labor, have been completed.

A bill was recently enacted by the general assembly giving the county commissioners authority to lease the property to the city for this purpose.

Under the plans, the building would be partially rebuilt so as to provide for a large gymnasium in the rear, and club, reading and recreational rooms in the main part of the building.

The project will be submitted, in all probability, under the new work-relief program. It has been delayed, both on account of the needed legal clarification for the lease and the fact that as an ERA project, no funds for materials would have been available. The material bill for the project as planned would be approximately $30,000 it was indicated, and the city is not in a position to advance this amount.

GREENSBORO, N. C.
NEWS

MAY 1 1935

WHAT PARKS ARE FOR.

Of all the editorial utterances we have met recently among our more immediate contemporaries that which has struck us as being perhaps best timed and most aptly put is a thing in the Charlotte News entitled "If We Were Running—."

The editorial in question has to do with a questionnaire put into circulation by the Negro Citizens' league and here is one of its questions: "Of the five parks in the city of Charlotte not one is for negroes, although the negro population is one-third of the whole. In view of this fact, will you advocate a more equal distribution of the tax funds for negro parks and playgrounds?"

To which the News rejoins: "Positively. In general the need for parks and playgrounds among the negroes is greater than among the white people, the benefit of them more perceptible and immediate. It is a short-sighted policy that ignores the direct effect on juvenile delinquency of the lack of parks and playgrounds. They are as important as schools."

Nicely put, in our opinion; and we make this statement in the full consciousness that the same question of what to do about parks for negroes is our own. What can youthful negroes do of long spring and summer afternoons? The whites have the parks, the swimming pools, the picnic grounds. And if three or four colored boys gather together for the shooting of a little craps or the playing of a small amount of skin along comes the law and lays them by the heels.

Parks, we have always thought, were designed for those who were unable to provide themselves with recreational facilities. Five parks for white people in Charlotte and none for negroes, who constitute one-third of that city's population! That, we would maintain, is such an obvious indecency that Charlotte will do something about it, and in so doing set the rest of urban North Carolina a good example.

Raleigh, N. C. Observer
June 5, 1935

DRAFTING PLANS FOR NEGRO PARK

NCERA to Be Asked to Construct Recreation Facilities on Blind School Site

Plans being drafted for a municipal park for Negroes here on the site of the old Negro Blind School will be completed within the next week, stated Commissioner of Public Works S. J. Ferguson yesterday.

After completion, the plans will be submitted to the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration with an application for construction of the project. The plans are being drawn in the office of Roy Williamson, director of the city division of utilities.

Roughly stated, the plans call for recreation facilities at the Negro park similar to those for white people at Pullen Park, though on a smaller scale in accordance with the size of the Negro population.

Land for the proposed park has been leased to the city of Raleigh by the State of North Carolina under authority of an act introduced by Senator Carroll Weathers of Wake and passed by the 1935 General Assembly.

Formerly the site of the North Carolina Institution for the Education of the Deaf, Dumb and Blind, the property comprises 23 acres of land on East and Lenoir streets in the Negro section of the city. It is planned to beautify the property.

Under the terms of its lease, the city pays $100 a year rent and is authorized to use the property for 25 years, provided that it is equipped for use as a Negro park within one year.

"We are going to do everything possible to assure the establishment of the park," stated Commissioner Ferguson yesterday. Civic leaders and social workers of both races have urged for some time that recreation facilities for Negroes be provided here.

The NCERA, the agency which constructed the new Pullen Park pool and pavilion, will be asked by the city administration to undertake the Negro park project, with the aid of funds for material from the city if needed.

The availibility of funds for such a project and the method of securing them are somewhat in doubt at the present, since the federal works program is in a state of change, said Commissioner Ferguson yesterday.

Rich Square, N. C. Enterprise
June 13, 1935

EFFORTS PUSHED TOWARD CHOICE OF PARK SITE

Committee Working Upon Proposed Municipal Park For Colored Population; Several Sites Considered

Efforts are being pushed by the committees in charge of the arrangements to secure a site for a municipal park for the colored people of the community, it was learned this morning from Dr. J. C. Morgan, chairman of the colored committee appointed by the city council.

A committee of white citizens, composed of Silas B. Casey, Judge Lewis E. Teague and O. A. Kirkman, members of the parks and juvenile commission, is working in cooperation with the colored committee at the request of the city council.

A number of sites are under consideration for the park. The committees have eliminated several proposed sites, but several others are being considered at this time. It is thought probable that some decision in the matter of the park site will be made in the near future.

A municipal recreation park for the colored citizens has long been sought here, and only recently definite steps were taken to secure the park. The city council is favorable to the plan.

Raleigh, N. C. Observer
August 29, 1935

STATE WPA ASKS OVER $2,000,000

Airport For Greensboro Included In Projects Sent To Washington

Applications for WPA projects totalling $2,250,000 were approved by State WPA Administrator George W. Coan, Jr., yesterday and forwarded to Washington authorities last night.

Among the proposed projects was that for an airport in Greensboro, involving an expenditure of $250,000. That amount would give the Guilford city flying field facilities comparable to those of Raleigh.

Two other major projects included in the group were a park for Durham, to cost $70,000, and city-county park for Monroe, to cost $137,000.

Approval of an application for $125,000 to build a Negro park in Raleigh is expected to be given next week. Administrator Coan has promised city officials to send the project to Washington.

Projects approved yesterday totalled $625,000 and those approved on Wednesday, $1,600,000, making a grand total of $11,250,000 in projects approved and forwarded by the State WPA.

The most important of the projects approved Wednesday was one sponsored by the State Department of Conservation and Development, to undertake sand fixation and beach erosion repairs along the North Carolina coast, work involving an expenditure of $980,000 and calling for employment of 2,000 transients.

No details had been received by the State WPA office yesterday on over $3,000,000 in projects reported to have been approved in Washington Monday.

Nothing Divided By 30,000.

(Greensboro News.) 8/16/35

Five parks for white people in Charlotte and none for negroes, who constitute one-third of that city's population! That, we would maintain, is such an obvious indecency that Charlotte will do something about it, and in so doing set the rest of urban North Carolina a good example.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
November 10, 1935

As to Parks for Negroes.

To The Observer:

Citizens and taxpayers are waiting patiently for the Park Commission's proposed program with ten or eleven parks, municipally owned swimming pools, for white people, and only one dump hole in a most undesirable place, namely Fairview Park, in the Greenville section for negroes.

Charlotte is a large city in population with negroes constituting more than one third of the citizenry of the city.

With a proposed recreational investment of around $500,000 negro citizens and taxpayers are entitled to a reasonable portion and more consideration as citizens and taxpayers of this city.

The Park Commission's intention of developing the Fairview project only for negroes is not enough compared with 11 parks, playgrounds and swimming pools for white people.

Negroes have always been discriminated against in the recreational advantages under this city's government and, so far conditions remain the same.

There is not a decent place or playground in this entire city for negroes, not even for negro youths.

It is our information that the superintendent of parks and recreation is largely responsible for such deplorable conditions of this sort, that is, he is a kind of

key man. If so the public would appreciate if he would kindly clarify this situation as negroes in Charlotte are making a just contribution to their government. The two cents tax levy has long been a question among the fair-minded citizens considering the inferior recreational advantages for colored citizens of this city.

It is hoped that the negroes will be given a new deal through the WPA money obtained from the Federal government and will be given some reasonable rights to share in the recreational program of our city regardless of race, color or creed.

NEGRO CITIZEN.

Charlotte.

Raleigh, N. C. Times
December 2, 1935

WILL START CITY PARK

WPA To Begin 26-acre Recreational Project Wednesday

Work on a WPA project for construction of a Negro recreational park in Raleigh will be started Wednesday, District Administrator Philip Whitley, notified Mayor George B. Iseley Monday.

The State Works Progress Administration announced Monday that a total of $63,267, of which the city will contribute $3,393.50, had been allocated for start of the project on a five-month basis.

Originally submitted to cost $124,986.19 in Federal funds, plus a sponsor's contribution of $5,251.75, the project is expected to receive further allocations of funds later in the WPA program.

The proposed park is to cover a tract of about 26 acres, located in the center of the City's colored population, midway between the two Negro colleges. It calls for a swimming pool, baseball diamond, tennis courts and other recreational facilities.

City officials designated the Negro park as one of the most desirable of proposed WPA undertakings for Raleigh in a priority list forwarded to Mr. Whitley earlier in the fall. In accordance with this request, starting of operations to employ Wake county's full quota of WPA workers was delayed by Mr. Whitley, pending Washington approval for the park project, which was granted by Comptroller General McCarl on November 21.

DISTRICT EMPLOYS 3,742

A report of employment in the district on Monday, prepared by Assistant District Administrator A. E. Perry, showed a total of 3,742 men and women, including the administrative staff, at work on 99 projects.

Wake county again led in total employment, showing a total of 1,000 persons at work on 24 projects and was followed closely by Durham county, with 986 employed on 13 projects.

Employment by counties in the district was as follows: Durham, 13 projects, 557 men, 429 women; Nash-Edgecombe, 14 projects, 196 men, 150 women; Franklin, two projects, eight men, 11 women; Granville, three projects, 26 men, 35 women; Harnett, eight projects, 203 men, 32 women; Johnston, six projects, 152 men, 100 women; Orange, eight projects, 163 men, 46 women; Person, two projects 26 men, 53 women; Vance, six projects, 87 men; 40 women; Wake, 24 projects, 602 men; 397 women; Warren, six projects, 92 men, 33 women; Wilson, seven projects, 130 men; 93 women; administrative, 46 men, 34 women.

Winston-Salem, N. C. Enterprise
December 4, 1935

AUSTIN PROPERTY PURCHASE FINAL, COUNCIL LEARNS

City's Negro Park Will Be Located There Despite Protests From Some Citizens

High Point's Negro municipal park will be located upon the Allen Austin property, near Cedrow avenue and Gordon street as the result of the city council's action in authorizing the completion of purchase of that piece of property at its meeting this morning.

Council authorized the purchase of the property at a meeting some weeks ago, but in its last meeting it heard the protest of white citizens who live on Gordon avenue and Cedrow street against using that area for a Negro park. At that time the delegation was told that it was thought their protest had come too late.

City Attorney Grover H. Jones told the delegatoin at that time that he believed the authorized acceptance of the tract constituted a contract which the city couldn't break, even if it desired to do so. Attorney Jones was then authorized to confer with Attorney-General A. A. F. Seawell to see if the contract was already completed.

Today the city attorney reported that he had received an opinion from Raeligh in which the state's Attorney-General expressed the ruling that the ctiy had already purchased the 27 acres known as the Austin property.

After this report was heard, the council then authorized completion of the contract with the property holders.

In an effort to give the citizens of that area some relief against the encroachment of Negro homes on Cedrow avenue and Gordon street, the planning and zoning commission was authorized to confer with the residents of that area and see that if some restrictions could be placed on the erection of Negro homes near those of white residents.

Another delegation appeared before the council to request that 45 degree parking be permitted on the east side of the 100 block of North Wrenn street. The merchants declared that since most of them deal in heavy food for animals they are losing trade because farmers canont park near their stores.

The council pointed out that the area between No. 1 and No. 2 fire stations, which are both on Wrenn street, must be cleared and that 45 degree parking has always congested traffic so in that block it is a great danger to fire the truck which must travel that block.

The matter was referred to the Public Safety committee with the hope of giving the mechants in that block some relief from the present parallel parking.

Greensboro, N. C., Record
November 21, 1935

Negro Recreation Workers to Meet

Negro staff workers of the city recreation department will hold a special meeting at the Jacksonville school community center at 7:30 o'clock this evening, Daniel R. Neal, city recreational director, announced today.

Both paid and volunteer staff workers are expected to attend the session, at which plans will be outlined for the entire winter season.

A. H. Peeler is general director of the negro division of the city recreation department. D. H. Keck is supervisor of the Jacksonville school center, and J. S. Leary is supervisor of the Washington Street school center.

Greensboro, N. C., News
November 21, 1935

PETITIONS PROTEST SELECTION OF PARK

High Point Citizens Oppose Use of Austin Tract For Negro Public Park.

Greensboro Daily News Bureau
106½ W. Washington, Phone 2873

High Point, Nov. 20.—A number of High Point citizens entered a formal protest before the city council this morning against the acceptance of the Austin track of land for the proposed negro public park. Petitioners through their attorney, D. C. McRae, contended that it would be impossible to use the city's water supply if the park is established on the purchased site since it would create an unhealthful area on the lake's watershed, and that the park would destroy the property values of white-owned land near the site.

City Attorney Grover H. Jones, advised the council that since that body had already gone on record as purchasing the tract, the contract is complete and that if the council attempts to change to other property it may have to purchase two tracts. The council referred the matter as to whether the bargain entered into between the city and owners of the Austin property is binding to Attorney General A. A. F. Seawell.

Raleigh, N. C. Observer
November 6, 1935

NEGRO PARK PROJECT FOR CITY NOT CLEAR

Though it stands at the head of preferred WPA projects submitted by the Raleigh city commissioners, a Negro recreational park project yesterday had not cleared the last barrier in Washington.

Director Philip R. Whitley of WPA District No. 3 indicated yesterday that drainage of lowgrounds in the Caraleigh village probably would be the next project to be started, probably today. The Caraleigh project is not within the city limits, though it is in Raleigh Township, and was not included on the city commissioners' preferred list.

All of the major projects for Raleigh are understood to have cleared the President's desk but have not received final approval from Comptroller General John R. McCarl.

Mayor George A. Iseley had expected to hear yesterday that the Negro park application had cleared all channels in Washington but received no message.

South Carolina

Parks and Play Grounds-1935.

Columbia, S. C. Record
April 16, 1935

CITY REFUSES NEGROES LAND FOR PLAYGROUND

Council Turns Down Plea For Property Near Washington High

City council this morning refused to permit the construction of a playground for negro children on Wheat street adjacent to the Booker Washington negro high school, dividing three votes to two on the decision.

Dr. I. W. Mance, negro superintendent of the Good Samaritan hospital, presented the petition. His request was seconded by A. C. Flora, superintendent of the Columbia city schools, and F. C. Withers, chairman of the city school board.

Mayor L. B. Owens led the opposition to the petition, declaring that the construction of the playground at that point would detract from the Maxcy Gregg park development. "I want them to have a playground, but I am opposed to its being put there," he said.

When Superintendent Flora began to state his position Mayor Owens interrupted him, saying: "you can argue yourself blue in the face; I'll still be opposed to it."

Mr. Flora and Mr. Withers declared that it would be impossible to find a section of the city more completely populated by negroes, that the playground would be well away from Maxcey Gregg park and could not interfere with its development.

Their position was supported by Councilmen Gary Paschal and Colin S. Monteith, Jr., who declared themselves to be "heartily in favor" of the location of the playground at that point. Councilmen W. D. Barnett and W. P. Eleazer took no part in the discussion but cast their votes with that of Mayor Owens, denying the petition.

Council also denied the petition of F. D. Davis, operator of a filling station at 1005 Whaley street, that he be allowed to move two of his tanks farther into the street. Again the city fathers were divided on their decision. Councilmen Paschal and Monteith voting to grant the request.

Councilman Barnett declared that the proposed location of the tanks would be in violation of a city ordinance.

Parks and Play Grounds – 1935

Tennessee

Clarksville, Tenn., Star
April 19, 1935

NEGROES TO HAVE CITY PLAYGROUND

CAR BARN LOT ON TENTH BEING MADE INTO AN ATTRACTIVE PLACE.

The city is converting the old street car barn lot on Tenth Street into a park and playground for the Negroes, and when all the work is completed, a rather unsightly spot will be a most attractive place. It will mean much to the Negro population of the city, furnishing, as it will, a community meeting place and a recreational center for the young.

Play devices and seats will be installed and some landscaping will be done, and when the project is finished it will be turned over to the various Negro churches of the city, who will be expected to provide for its maintenance.

The Clarksville Garden Club, at the meeting Tuesday, voted to donate many shrubs, bulbs and flowers for the garden which will be planted at one end.

CLARKSVILLE, TENN.
LEAF-CHRONICLE

JUN 7 - 1935

Playgrounds

Clarksville, in equipping two playgrounds, one for the white children and the other for the colored, is showing appreciation of the value of play for its younger element. Riverside playground, located on Front street, is owned and maintained by the city for white children while on Tenth street there is a new colored playground likewise equipped for good, wholesome pleasure and recreation.

The small amount of the taxpayers' money which goes to maintain and operate these playgrounds is of little importance compared with the training given the youths under competent supervision. Many homes lack the the space and the toys to delight a child's heart. If there is any criticism concerning either of the playgrounds it is because there are not more of them.

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
June 23, 1935

SCHOOL FOR NEGROES

A recreational school for Negroes of the city will open at Knoxville college Thursday night. Games appropriate for playgrounds, picnics, churches and parties will be explained and demonstrated. Jack Coughlin, city recreation supervisor, will be in general charge.

Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
September 30, 1935

NEGRO PLAYGROUND WILL BE ENLARGED

To Spend $20,000 on Campus of High School

The playground at Booker T. Washington Negro High School on South Lauderdale will be enlarged at a cost of $20,000, Ernest C. Ball, acting superintendent of the Memphis public schools, said last night.

The addition will be a strip about 300 feet wide running from the west side of Driver Street to the east side of Wellington. Acquisition of the land will give the school a playground of more than 500 feet in length. It will extend from the north boundary line of the school to the Southern Railway tracks and from South Lauderdale to Wellington.

Mr. Ball said that in all probability Driver Street will be closed where the playground starts. The street now stops at the railway tracks.

"We have 2,000 children at the school and we just had to have more room for them," Mr. Ball said.

Options have been signed on all of the properties. Four sales were recorded yesterday. James Polk sold a lot 41 by 90 for $3,000; R. H. Lee sold the properties on a lot 100 by 170 for $3,750; M. S. Simon sold his property for $1,950, and H. M. Gay sold his lot 82 by 92 feet, with substantial improvements, for $4,100.

Parks and Play Grounds-1935

Tennessee

Clarksville, Tenn., Star
May 24, 1935

NEGRO PARK TO BE DEDICATED MAY 29

ELABORATE PROGRAM BEING PLANNED FOR FORMAL OPENING.

The formal opening of the playground for Negroes at the site of the former street car barn lot on Tenth Street will take place Wednesday at 2 o'clock. This park has been made by the city and will be maintained by the various Negro churches of Clarksville. It fills a long desired need on the part of the Negro population of the city and will be of inestimable value to the children. It is expected to have a capable playground teacher in charge.

The program for the opening will be under the direction of R. H. Trice. Addresses will be made by city and county officials, including Judge John T. Cunningham, Mayor W. D. Hudson and C. H. Moore, superintendent of city schools.

The Lonnell Williams Post of the American Legion will be in charge of the flag-raising and dedication.

The Rev. H. P. Hawkins, Dr. C. A. Kelly, Dr. D. L. Terrell and Dr. W. E. Van Buren, all prominent Negro citizens of the city, will also have a part on the program, and H. E. Clarkston and Fred Batson are arranging suitable music.

Elementary school children will be admitted free, but an admission charge of 15 cents will be made for all adults.

Parks and Play Grounds – 1935

Virginia.
6

NORFOLK, VA.
VIRGINIAN PILOT

NOV 13 1935

Letters To the Editor

PARK FACILITIES for Negroes in Norfolk—A picture of Barraud Park and a call for action.

Editor, Virginian-Pilot:

A few weeks ago, City Council authorized the City Manager to negotiate with the owners of a tract of land in the Larchmont section, apparently with a view to purchasing it as a site for a park. Whether council was merely making a gesture to tickle the voters of Larchmont, or was in dead earnest about spending more of the taxpayers' money in a section not slighted in recreational facilities—in either case—a few notes concerning the local park situation may be in order.

The Virginian-Pilot of February 16, of this year, quoted the city's audited figures, as of the close of 1933, showing the investment cost of all recreational assets, including parks, golf courses and playgrounds to be $1,242,954.23. Of that sum, less than $31,000 was invested in all the recreational facilities provided for the colored people, though one-third the population of Norfolk, or 45,000, approximately, are of the Negro group. Three per cent of the city's recreational assets were invested in facilities for the ostracized 33 per cent of its population.

Making further deductions, $11,000 of the $31,000 was for a bathing beach in Princess Anne County, and another $1,000 for playground equipment. The remaining $19,000 was reported to be invested in what shows on the city real estate map as Barraud Park. If you ask the city authorities if there is in Norfolk a public park where colored people are welcomed, you will be told it is Barraud Park, that is, if you are talking to any one of the half-dozen persons in the city government, outside the street-cleaning department, who know of the place. But no one who has been there will look you straight in the eye and tell you it is a real park. Somebody is trying to dignify a smelly dumping ground by giving it the paper status of a breathing spot, and a name suggestive of moonlight and roses.

From a scenic standpoint, this $19,000 investment is a perfect setting for the brush artist whose tastes incline to pictures of slimy mud creeks, mosquito-infested marshlands, trash-cart dumpings, ruts dug by wagon wheels, back yards with missing-teeth fences exposing decorated clotheslines and the gay nineties period outhouses, and tumbled-down tin shacks sheltering deep depression squatters.

If anyone believes this description is overdrawn, he should get a guide who knows the lay of the land "on the other side of the track" to direct him to this God-forsaken acre of desolation, located on the tomato-can banks of a Tanners Creek tributary.

When a city council, instead of narrowing a too-wide disparity between park facilities for the two races, shows a disposition to increase an unjust disproportion by adding more parks for the use of the white people, while denying the colored people the most primitive recreational needs, something is cockeyed about this thing called a justice-loving democracy.

The situation offers opportunity for war veterans' organizations and patriotic societies to exemplify a high order of civic patriotism by fighting unjust discrimination against a minority group of American citizens. It is a call to action for civic clubs whose service mottoes, when translated into performance, transcend the color line. Indeed, it challenges the pulpit to raise its voice with prophetic authority, and enjoin the pewholders to do justly by those who dwell within their own city gates.

SIDELINER.

Norfolk, November 8.

Parks and Play Grounds - 1935

Virginia.

CITY COUNCIL REFUSES TO TAKE ACTION

Journal and Guide

No Opposition Voiced By Citizens At Public Hearing

2-23-35

MAYOR GETS OVATION

Norfolk

3 To 2 Vote Blocks Move To Put Beach Into Decent Shape

Members of City Council, by a three to two vote Tuesday, repudiated 42,000 Negro citizens of the city by failing to take steps to develop the municipally-owned colored bathing beach at Little Creek, Princess Anne County.

The action was taken in the face of overwhelming sentiment expressed in favor of developing the site, and in spite of the fact that not a single person appeared to speak against the proposal other than the three councilmen who voted against it.

Councilman John A. Gurkin, J. W. Reed and Hugh L. Butler voted down an ordinance under the terms of which the site could have been made ready for use during the coming summer, while Mayor W. R. L. Taylor, and Councilman J. D. Wood supported the measure.

Two Proposals Offered

Two alternate proposals offered by City Manager T. P. Thompson under the terms of which the 10.1-acre site could be developed, first, with the outlay of $10,000 by the city proper for its development, and second, its development under the Public Works Administration program with supplementary appropriations by the municipal government.

Under Mr. Thompson's first plan which was defeated on first reading, the beach site would be developed by private interests. The city would have granted a franchise for its development with no initial cost to the city. The plan also provided that no admission fee was to be charged at the beach and the grantee would have had possession for a period of five years.

The operator would have been required to build bath houses, a dance pavilion and all other such accessories. In return he would have had the right to sell confections, including soft drinks, hot dogs, etc., and rent bathing suits to indemnify himself.

-- Several Sought Franchise --

City Manager Thompson made it plain that several responsible persons had already put in bids for the franchise. This was done at a meeting held prior to the council meeting which was attended by members of the Interracial Commission and members of Council, and other advocates of immediate development of the beach site.

Speaking strongly in favor of the proposal before the Council were Louis Jaffe, editor of the Virginian-Pilot; Attorney Charles L. Kaufman, Mrs. Frank Anthony Walke, Mrs. M. M. Osborne, the Rev. C. Grier Davis, Judge Herbert G. Cochran of the Norfolk Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, W. S. Royster, Winder R. Harris, managing editor of the Virginian-Pilot, the Rev. E. Ruffin Jones and Douglas Gordon, editor of the Ledger-Dispatch, all white.

Also Attorney J. Eugene Diggs, P. B. Young, Sr., editor of the Journal and Guide, the Rev. G. W. Watkins, pastor of Bank Street Baptist Church, representing the Baptist Ministers Conference of Norfolk, Portsmouth and Vicinity, and the Rev. William M. Gordon.

No Cost To City

In explaining their position before Council persons speaking in favor of immediate development of the beach site emphasized that they were not asking any outlay of funds by the city, nor were they asking the city to give anything to its Negro citizens, but rather asking that the beach, already the property of the city, be developed for use by the summer, and not withheld because of lack of such development.

In opposing the proposed development of the site, the three councilmen who voted against the idea expressed for the first time their objection on the grounds that the present site is improperly located and the additional claim that it is entirely too small.

A charge that persons who objected to development of the beach on the grounds that the present site is too small, is merely "drawing a red herring across the trail to defeat the issue,"," was made by Mayor Taylor in a ringing statement of his position. The Mayor's pointed remarks were often interrupted by prolonged applause.

"Travesty Of Justice"

"There has never been any doubt in my mind, or hesitation on my part of the crying need for development of this beach for our colored citizens," Mayor Taylor declared. "When it was purchased I was glad to be able to instruct the City Manager to proceed with very meager improvements with the aid of CWA funds.

"With all the opposition that subsequently arose as to its development I thought then and I still think it is a travesty of justice and common decency not to accede to the city manager's plan for developing the site, and thus withhold from our colored citizens proper facilities for the beach.

"This matter of development should have been closed finally and definitely with its purchase. I am not concerned for the moment with the proposal for a larger beach. The excuse that the site is too small is merely drawing a red herring across the trail to defeat the real issue. And everyone knows, that with conditions as they exist in the city today, any man who would propose that 130 acres of land for a beach should be bought would be labelled a 'lunatic'."

Objections Refuted

Continuing Mr. Taylor asserted: "The argument that the beach's location might damage adjacent property cannot be sustained for whatever damage there might have been—and it was a fanciful damage—has been done. The only question which ever gave me any concern was the question of how to finance the beach's development.

"I was never bothered with the claim that development of this beach for the use of the city's colored citizens would interfere with a commercial beach further down the line. The people who invested money in that beach knew at the time they made such an investment that the city had bought its site and deserve no sympathy and consideration and will certainly get none from me."

Mr. Taylor also answered objections raised that in order to get to the city beach Negroes would have to traverse streets in white sections, by saying: "the colored citizens of Norfolk have an inherent and constitutional right to use its streets."

Emphasizes Pay-as-you-go

Mayor Taylor emphasized in his remarks that not one cent would have to be spent by the city to develop the beach site, and that it was a pay-as-you-go proposition, and that any chance that Negro users of the beach might be exploited by operators of the concessions, had been guarded against in the proposed ordinance.

"It is a very difficult matter for me to go against the various requests and speeches made here," Councilman Butler said in stating his opposition to the city manager's proposal, "but in the final analysis responsibility for my vote rests entirely with me. The location of the beach is bad and I believe we're going to have trouble just as long as it is in its present site.

"I opposed its location at the beginning and I am still of the same opnion. If we had gone across the bridge and selected a different site it would have at least removed this objection. Besides every colored beach I know about in any place is in a colored section. I can't see the matter in the light of its supporters and will vote against it."

"Lived With Negroes"

Councilman Gurkin: "I have always been in favor of a Negro bathing beach and a place of recreation for Negroes. I have lived with Negroes and have lived in the city of Norfolk for 30 years. The thing that's troubling me now is this tiny piece of land. If we're going to have a beach we ought to have one large enough so that we won't have to buy another one two or three years from now."

Mr. Gurkin referred to the privately owned beach for Negroes a few miles from the city-owned site as "property already developed, which I understand can be acquired at a ridiculous price," and added that "I am going to vote against it because I think we should get them a bigger and better beach.

"It is ridiculous to think that Negroes will be satisfied with this tiny piece of land," he asserted.

"Niggers Won't Bother Me"

Speaking of a previous statement made that he owned a home within a mile or so of beach property. Councilman Gurkin said, "God knows the Niggers will never bother me. I have three houses in the city but I wish that matter had not been brought up I want the Niggers to have a beach as much as anybody."

Stating his position in supporting the proposal, Councilman Wood said: "My position is unchanged . . . I am pledged to try to conserve the city's resources. We have wanted to relieve the taxpayers and restore pay cuts to city employees. I resolved not to vote for any unnecessary expenditure of money. I voted to acquire the beach property and I believe if Christ, had He returned to earth at the time the matter was brought up, would have voted for the beach.

Wood Favors Proposal

"Last September I opposed development of the beach because the plan then submitted involved the expenditure of city money and I expressed the hope that some plan could be developed without cost to the city. Now that such a plan has been proposed, I cannot justify witholding the beach from our colored citizens and am ready to vote in favor of the plan."

Councilman Reed said that five years ago he offered as a site for the beach the spot referred to by Mr. Gurkin and is still of the opinion that that is the best site for the purpose.

"I am not convinced," he said, "that the present site is best for the welfare of both races. I cannot go on record as favoring development of the beach."

Mrs. Walke told of a trip she made to Richmond and the State Corporation Commission in the early stages of the beach project and was told by a member of that body that "you people in Norfolk ought to be ashamed of yourselves with all of the waterfront you have in Norfolk not to give a part of it to your colored people."

Calls For Immediate Action

Mrs. Osborne declared that she spoke as a "housewife, a mother and a taxpayer," in making her plea for immediate development of the city-owned site.

Mr. Kaufman expressed the opinion that the least that could be done under the circumstances since the city already owns the beach propert was to "furnish elemental facili to protect health and to furnish bathing facilities. There should have been no objections to the underlying principle behind the project. Some may still feel that the present site is not the best, but the fact remains that it was selected and the property purchased. The least that can be done now is to supply the basic improvements.

"I agreed with the old economy plea, but a plan is now devised to overcome that. You have a course charted for you which will permit you to do what is necessary, and it must be done now."

Speaking as the official representative of the Norfolk and Portsmouth Baptist ministers, Rev. Mr. Watkins told the ministers that he represented "a patient people who are still waiting for council to provide us with a beach. God is not pleased at the suffering His people mus undergo. Our patience is sometimes misunderstood to mean that we're satisfied. We are expecting you to provide us with the beach in time for the summer season."

Predicated Upon Need

Rev. Mr. Gordon told the councilmen that he was asking for the Negro beach because "it is predicated upon a need." We need a bathhouse, and dance pavilion where we can exercise these members that God gave us," he declared. "We ask you today to make this beach available."

Rev. Mr. Davis, chairman of the Tidewater Ministerial Union Inter-

racial Commission, presented a set of resolutions by the ministerial union signed by himself and Revs. John Rustin and Roland Black, calling for immediate development of the beach site.

"The only thing before the Council now, George H. Lewis declared, "is whether or not they're willing to do the right thing by the colored people of Norfolk. Council voted to buy the property and there's nothing to do now but to develop it. A plan has been arranged so that the cost to the city, at best, is only negligible."

Attorney Diggs emphasized the urgent necessity for immediate development of the city-owned site because to do otherwise he said, "would give those persons who seek to overthrow the government a chance to offset years of peaceful race relations." "This is no scare speech," he emphasized, "but they have able leaders in our city, and they can do things. The City of Norfolk does not care, it would seem, what becomes of its Negro citizens. What can I answer these people when they come to me for advice?

Isolated Spot

Mr. Diggs told the Council that it was impossible to find a more isolated spot in all the beach front with which the city is surrounded than the one chosen as the site for the Negro bathing beach. He referred to the beach provided for the colored citizens of Newport News and Bayshore Beach as examples of such recreational spots where no race clashes have occurred.

"We are asking you as councilmen to let this beach be developed in the name of common sense. We speak of common sense, but there was also once something called common justice. In its name I ask you to put yourselves in the places of 42,000 Negro citizens and try to imagine, if you can, how you would feel if use of all of Norfolk's beaches was denied you."

An opinion that "community welfare and public interest demand development of the beach." was expressed by Winder R. Harris. Referring to the objections raised that frequenters of the beach have to pass through white residential areas to reach it, Mr. Harris said, "All of the city streets are used daily by Negroes and we come in contact with them every day riding on our buses and in our homes as nurses and cooks.

What Is Best Negro

"As citizens of Norfolk we're as far in Princess Anne County as we care to go," P. B. Young declared in answering the claim that the beach site should have been located "over the bridge." Everywhere you go you hear that the Negroes in Norfolk are the best Negroes on earth. But what is this best Negro? He is broken in spirit, hemmed in by oppression and discriminated against on every side.

"The greatest spiritual burden the Negroes of Norfolk have today is the delay in developing this very beach I cannot see, and Norfolk Negroes can no longer believe that you have the best Negroes here when you fail to treat them as human beings. We want something besides a place to sleep and something to eat. We want a place to bathe.

"As Nerces, we are not unmindful or ungrateful of the things you have done for us in the past. Just a few months ago you made it possible for colored children to make use of the Henry Clay School, but it took four years of petitions, pleading and begging to open the hearts of you gentlemen.

Mr. Jaffe Speaks

"The idea that the privately-owned beach is adequate for the needs of Norfolk Negroes is no valid excuse to block development of the city-owned beach. We need a beach where we won't have to pay to get into, a beach as provided by Newport News Atlanta and other cities of the United States who have done something decent and humane for its colored citizens."

Mr. Jaffe gave a brief history of the Negro beach movement and said it was started 10 years ago. He said a committee combed the beaches for a location as far away as Cape Henry almost gave up hope of finding a place, and then located a tiny corner of surplus beach owned by the Pennsylvania Railroad at Little Creek." He said this property was bounded on the north by Chesapeake Bay, on the east by the railroad's artificial harbor and on the south by desolate country.

On the west, he said, the nearest human habitation was three-fourths of a mile away.

The Rev. E. Ruffin Jones asked the council to "remove the menace created by present arrangements" by seeing that proper developments are made.

Approved by Committeee

Mr. Gordon, editor of the Ledger-Dispatch declared that "We are not asking you to give them anything, the beach already has been bought It is there. We are not asking the city to spend a cent for its development All we ask is that it not be withheld from them."

Speaking of the opposition raised by those who said the site was not the proper one, Mr. Gordon pointed out that the location was approved by a committee composed of Maj. S. Heth Tyler, former mayor, "a son of a Governor of Virginia," and the late Thomas S. Southgate and David Pender. He said it also had been approved by Col. James Mann, "the son of another Governor of Virginia."

"Are you gentlemen to take an arbitrary view of this location in the face of approval by a group of men like these?" Mr. Gordon asked.

DEVELOPMENT OF BEACH EXPECTED TO BE STARTED WITHIN THIRTY DAYS

Ordinance Approving Lease To Amusement Concern Passed On First Reading

Actual development of the city-owned Negro bathing beach at Little Creek, Princess Anne County, is expected to begin on or about May 17, following the action of City Council Tuesday in placing on first reading an ordinance leasing the 10.1 acre site to the Floating Hotel and Amusement Corporation.

The measure will come up on second reading next Tuesday and if passed, the lease will become effective in thirty days. In taking the action, Council by a three to two vote, accepted the first of two bids offered by the corporation under the terms of which an enclosed dance hall, covered pavilion and bath house with a capacity for 100 bathers, will be constructed the city to receive $50 a year for the five-year period the lease is in effect.

The matter was referred to the city manager for recommendation and report by a unanimous vote immediately after the bids had been read by City Clerk John D. Corbell. When the vote was taken to place the ordinance on its first reading however, Councilman J. W. Reed and Hugh L. Butler, voted against the proposal, while Major W. R. L. Taylor, and Councilmen John A. Gurkin and J. D. Wood, voted in the affirmative.

The vote was divided exactly as it was on March 5, when the body finally adopted an ordinance calling for development of the property.

The bid accepted by the council and another, an alternate, were both submitted by L. B. Cox, attorney for the Floating Hotel and Amusement Corporation. Under the terms of the latter, a bath house would be built, to accomodate only 200 bathers, and the dance pavilion would likewise have been smaller. The city would have received $200 a year, but at the expiration of the lease would have received a much smaller development.

The bids as submitted were signed by A. F Cathey, president of the Amusement Corporation, and W. Frank Robertson, secretary-treasurer.

The lessee will be required to furnish adequate water, lights, police protection and life guards at the beach site, under the terms of the contract. The entire development is to be made without cost to the city.

Concessions at the beach will also be controlled by the Amusement Corporation under the terms of the bid. The company will also have to supply indemnity bonds to protect the city against any damage resulting from the operation of the park which is to be developed.

In addition to the improvements already mentioned, company officials stated that it is planned to tow to the beach site a floating hotel with adequate floor space now mored at Point Harbor, N. C., which has a dance hall, dining room, and private rooms aboard.

The bids submitted by the Floating Hotel and Amusement Corporation were the only ones submitted at Tuesday's session. Up to early Monday afternoon no bids had been received either by Mayor Taylor. or City Clerk Corbell.

DISCOURAGING

The most discouraging sight witnessed in Richmond recently affecting Negro residents of the city was presented at the Colored Recreation Center located at 112 W. Charity Street. This center is operated by the Colored Playground and Recreation Association, an agency of the Richmond Community Fund. Several months ago bids were asked for minor repairs to the building, and several Negro mechanics submitted bids. What consideration was given these bids is not known, but the fact is that the work was given to white mechanics, and while it was in progress, not even a Negro helper was employed.

Mr. Arthur Guild, director of the Community Fund, has taken much interest and expended much energy in assisting the promoters of the housing project to put their program across over the protest of the home owners in the selected area. How does he expect Negroes to pay the rents assessed for this pet project of his, if, when he has the opportunity to give them work, he closes the doors in their faces?

We trust we are mistaken but it looks like another case of hope deferred even though imposed in the Richmond Community Fund.

Council Group To Study Negro Recreation Bill

Finance Committee Urged to Allot $4,500 Fund; to Meet Tuesday Night

The Finance Committee of Council Tuesday night will consider a resolution appropriating $4,500 for promotion of Negro recreational work in Richmond. The money would be used in supporting the Charity Street community house and in providing supervision for the various playground and athletic activities in the Negro recreational places.

Passage of the paper has been urged by the Community Recreational Association, the Department of Works and others.

Other Items on Docket

Other items on the committee's docket embrace those appropriating funds for construction of a stable and storage shed in Oakwood Cemetery; for curbing and guttering in city-owned cemeteries; for appropriating $185 to the First Company, Virginia Naval Militia; appropriating $20,000 for maintenance and operation in the Department of Works; $6,500 for addition to repair shop of Department of Works; $3,600 for lighting six tennis courts in Byrd Park; appropriating funds for maintenance of a branch library in the Forest Hill community house; placing Miss Lillie Smith on the superannuated list.

Likewise the committee will further consider an ordinance creating a city self-sustaining fire insurance fund, and an ordinance authorizing the partial payment plan for real estate taxes.

The committee will endeavor to complete its docket for presentation to Common Council on June 3.